

REMARKS

In accordance with the above amendments, claims 1 and 19 have been amended to correct spelling errors. Claims 1, 3-19 and 21-36 remain under consideration in the present application and no claim has been allowed.

It is noted that claims 1, 3-19 and 21-36 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haefner et al (U.S. 5,690,683). While it is true that Haefner et al disclose aspects of the presently claimed invention, they do not recognize nor suggest the modifications necessary to produce a device with the versatile scope of the system of the present invention. In this regard, applicants cannot agree that it would be obvious to modify the Haefner device to achieve the system of the present invention as there is no suggestion to do so in the references and it is only through hindsight that one could bridge the gap.

Sholder (U.S. 5,222,493) shows that different combinations of electrodes may be used for sensing in different applications, however, this is not to suggest the creation of a simple single device that enables many different combinations for sensing. Each of the cited references is limited in scope to a minor aspect of such a device. The references suggest additional combinations only with respect to multiple devices. The references themselves do not provide any incentive or key to

bridging the gap that would enable one to come up with the combination of the elements of the presently claimed invention.

In view of these and previously submitted remarks, the Examiner is asked to reconsider his position and allow the present claims.

Respectfully submitted,

NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A.



C. G. Mersereau
Registration No. 26,205
820 International Centre
900 Second Avenue So.
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 339-7461